1 (THREE TIMES AMENDED). A method of screening a nuclear transcription factor ligand for the ability to modulate estrogen activation at an AP-1 site, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first cell comprising:

an estrogen receptor;

a cognate receptor for said nuclear transcription factor ligand, wherein said cognate receptor is a receptor other than the estrogen receptor, AP-1, fos or jun;

fos;

jun; and,

a promoter comprising an AP-1 site that regulates expression of a first reporter gene;

b) contacting said first cell with said transcription factor ligand and with a compound having AP-1 mediated estrogenic activity; and,

c) detecting expression of said first reporter gene, whereby an alteration in expression of said first reporter gene, as compared to expression of said first reporter gene in the absence of said transcription factor ligand, indicates that said nuclear transcription factor ligand modulates estrogen activation at an AP-1 site.

2 (TWICE AMENDED). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

d) providing a cell comprising an estrogen receptor, a cognate receptor for said nuclear transcription factor ligand, and a promoter comprising an estrogen response element (ERE) that regulates expression of a second reporter gene;

e) contacting said cell with said transcription factor ligand and with said compound having AP-1 mediated estrogenic activity; and

f) detecting expression of said second reporter gene.

4 (TWICE AMENDED). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

d) providing a cell comprising a cognate receptor of said transcription factor ligand, and a promoter comprising a response element for said cognate receptor that regulates expression of a second reporter gene;

e) contacting said cell with said transcription factor ligand and with said compound having AP-1 mediated estrogenic activity; and

f) detecting expression of said second reporter gene.

c4

6 (TWICE AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said nuclear transcription factor ligand is selected from the group consisting of: a glucocorticoid, a progestin, vitamin D, retinoic acid, an androgen, a mineralcorticoid, and a prostangladin.

7 (AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said cognate receptor is selected from the group consisting of: an estrogen receptor, a glucocorticoid receptor, a progestin PR-A receptor, and progestin PR-B receptor, androgen receptor, a mineralcorticoid receptor, and a prostaglandin receptor.

c5

8 (AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said first cell expresses said estrogen receptor from a heterologous DNA.

9 (AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said first cell expresses said cognate receptor from a heterologous DNA.

c6

10 (AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said cell expresses said fos or said jun from a heterologous DNA.

11 (TWICE AMENDED). The method of claim 10, wherein said jun is c-jun.

c7

12 (TWICE AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said nuclear transcription factor ligand is a progestin; and said cognate receptor is a progestin receptor.

13 (AMENDED). The method of claim 1, wherein said nuclear transcription factor ligand is a glucocorticoid and said cognate receptor is a GR receptor.

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record. In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked up version showing the changes to the claims, is attached herewith as Appendix A. For the Examiner's convenience, a complete claim set of the currently pending claims is also submitted herewith as Appendix B.

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS.

Claims 1-13 are pending with entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 4 and 6-13 are amended herein. These amendments introduce no new matter. The amendments to claims 4 and 6-13 are technical in nature, correcting punctuation, clarifying standard use of open claim language, correcting antecedence, and the like. Claim 1 is further amended to more clearly indicate that the cognate receptor is a receptor other than ER, AP-1, fos or jun, as taught throughout the specification.